

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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GCA Plans Forum On Tax Rise Tuesday

Should the cost of future capital improvements in Greenbelt, like the proposed Youth Center, be borne entirely by present residents — or should part of the load be carried by those who move into town in the future?

Should Greenbelt City services be increased in some respects and maintained in others, with correspondingly higher tax rates—or should expenditures be cut in order to permit tax cuts, and if so, can expenditures be cut without cutting services?

These questions, and details that are affected by the answers to them, will be discussed at the Greenbelt Citizens Association meeting 9 p.m. Tuesday, November 29 at the Center School social room (downstairs). All residents are invited to attend and participate.

GCA city budget committee chairman Bernard Sisco, an accountant, told the News Review that while his committee hadn't had time to make a thorough study of the budget presented to council November 21, a preliminary reading indicated these points:

1-If the people are interested in increased services in some respects

If this week's sheet reads sorta jerky

We all admit that it's a turkey - - You can't cash news at local banks. For all small blessings, let's give

THANKS.

and maintenance of current levels in others, with the higher accompanying costs, the budget as presented seems adequate. But if they want to cut their own taxes and encourage expansion of the city, which would (he said) broaden the tax base and make possible lower taxes, the budget needs to be cut.

2- Certain areas in the budget carry expenditures that possibly could be cut without cutting services, and these bear careful review. These include certain "miscellaneous" accounts, and the public service enterprises: the city bus, pool, water, and garbage collection, all on separate-charge basis and all estimated to run at deficits which, Sisco said, could be eliminated by raising the fees.

3- City manager McDonald touched on one issue when he suggested that the Youth Center cost should be kept separate from the regular budget, Sisco went on. The regular operating budget is paid for by present residents. If future capital improvements go into that budget, their entire costs will be shouldered by present residents, Sisco explained. But if a capital budget is set up and capital improvements financed out of them, via bonding, part of the costs would be paid for by those who will move into town in the future.

Sisco promised that an objective presentation of the budget, and of trends involved, together with an analysis of them, will be prepared by the time of the GCA meeting November 29 and both sides of issues will be presented. Last year GCA members opposed 1955 budget cuts that involved certain service cuts; the November 29 session will be the first one at which GCA can discuss the 1956 budget.

If time permits, the meeting also will hear reports on the Friends of the Library Association by Imogene McCarthy, and on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway truck ban situation by Herman Sirlin.

DROP INN NEWS

by Barbara Moseley

The Drop Inn is having a Thanksgiving Dance Friday night, November 25. Marty Tanner and his orchestra will furnish the entertainment from 8 to 11:30. Refreshments will be donated by the Woman's Club.

WHAT GOES ON

Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving Day. Bank closed.

Friday, November 25 - Drop Inn Dance, 8 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

Monday, November 28 - Free Band Concert, Center School auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Staff psychologist of P. Geo. Mental Hygiene Clinic speaks, 8 p.m., First Methodist Church, Hyattsville.

Tuesday, November 29 - Coordinating Comm., GCA meets at 8 p.m., social room, Center School. Greenbelt Citizens Association budget meeting, 9 p.m., same place.

Friday, December 2 - Duplicate contract bridge, social room, Center School, 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, December 3 - JCCC Annual Dance, 9 p.m. at JCC building.

Lutheran Church

Edward H. Birner, Pastor

Sunday, November 27: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School and adult Bible Class. Raymond Carriere, superintendent. 8:30 and 11 a.m., Church Services. Sermon by Pastor Birner. 4 p.m., Sunday School rehearsal for the children's Christmas program. 7 p.m., Adult Confirmation class.

Baptist Chapel

Glenn W. Samuelson, Pastor

Sunday, November 27 - 9:45 a.m., Sunday School. John S. Stewart, Jr., superintendent. 11 a.m., Morning Worship Service. Chapel Choir will sing led by Mrs. John J. Oleksak. Parental Dedication of Children. Parents who desire to dedicate their lives and their children to the Lord should phone the pastor-9424. Pastor will preach on the subject "Feed My Lambs" based on John 21. 6 p.m., Training Union for all ages. Roy C. Thomas, director. 7 p.m., Evening Worship Service. Dr. James T. McCarl will lead song service. Visitation cards distributed. The pastor's message "The Challenge of Faith," Hebrews 12.

Methodist Church

Stanley F. Knock, Jr., Minister

Sunday, November 27 - 9:30, Church School. 11 a.m., Morning Worship conducted by Rev. Knock. Sermon is titled "Believing the Bible: The Word of God." This is the first Sunday of the advent series. There will be no Family Fellowship Hour.

Council Okays Borrowing \$10,000 For City Sewage Disposal Survey

By Isadore Parker

Permission to apply for a \$10,000 loan from the Housing and Home Finance Agency was given City Manager Charles McDonald by the city council last Monday night for an engineering survey of the sewage disposal facilities in the city. The loan bears no interest and must be paid back only when actual work on improvements begin. However, the city must show "sincerity" of intention to receive the loan, and must plan to begin the work in 3 years, according to McDonald.

Mac's New Budget Calls For Tax Hike

City manager Charles McDonald asked for \$350,833 to operate the city during the next year, in his proposed budget presented to the city council last Monday night. The tax rate, if this amount is accepted, would be \$1.9721 per \$100 assessed valuation. (Last year's tax rate was \$1.7075).

Worth \$7 Million

Real property taxes would yield \$138,053, according to McDonald, with the remaining sum coming from other sources of revenue. Total assessed valuation of taxable Greenbelt property is now \$7 million, an increase of only \$80,000, due chiefly to Lakeside homes, McDonald revealed in his budget message. McDonald also recommended that the new Youth Center financing problem be studied "aside from the regular operating budget," although his budget includes the item in a separate column; this column itemizes departmental requests which would increase the recommended budget.

"There remains but little to be accomplished . . ." for major reductions by utilizing county services, the message states. Public health service provided by the city cannot be replaced by the county at this date, McDonald declared, and county recreation policies call for a great amount of volunteer assistance that does not seem forthcoming in Greenbelt.

Penny a Thousand

In order to continue the same tax rate as last year, the budget should be reduced \$13,500. For each thousand dollars reduced or increased from the proposed budget, the tax rate would reduce or increase \$0.0143, the budget message discloses. By including the Youth Center expenditure (as proposed in a widely-circulated petition) the budget would increase \$11,560 with a resulting tax rate of \$2.1373.

Group Meeting Tuesday To Work On Directory

A new Greenbelt City Directory is in the works. The community coordinating committee of the Greenbelt Citizens Association is calling a meeting of representatives of all organizations this Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in the Social room of Center School to plan revision of the directory published by this committee two years ago. Bruce Bowman, chairman of the group, urges interested organizations to send members to the Tuesday meeting.

The coordinating committee planned the enjoyable reception held for the teachers of Greenbelt November 28 at the Armory.

The loan is the first step in solving the complicated relation of sewage disposal to new development. McDonald revealed that preliminary survey work done by an engineering firm revealed that the plant presently is operating "adequately" for Greenbelt needs. Another estimate, by state health authorities, discloses the plant can accommodate about 200 more homes, if necessary.

It will take about \$80,000 to expand and improve the present plant, McDonald declared. The money will come from either a revenue-producing bond issue or a local-improvement bond issue. (Local-improvement bond issues are paid for by those benefiting from the improvement; revenue-producing bonds are paid for by the entire community.) The proposed expansion would accommodate about 600 more homes, all the building anticipated within the Greenbelt Sanitary District.

Cost of paying off a bond issue is estimated at an additional 5 cents per thousand gallons of water (We now pay .0415 cents). This would still keep Greenbelt's rate 5 cents under the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission rates of 14 cents a thousand gallons.

Answering Councilman James Wolfe's query about the apparent greater cost of water to local residents compared to county citizens in the WSSC district, McDonald said Greenbelt's cost is 35 cents for water and sewage against 61 cents for county users per thousand gallons. Ad valorem, front foot benefit, and meter charges make up the difference, McDonald added, declaring those additional charges are made in the county tax bill and not on the water bill.

Another alternative, tying into WSSC trunk sewer lines coming near Greenbelt, was pointed out by McDonald. This would entail the 14 cents sewage charge, but eliminate the added charges mentioned above. Installing meters in Greenbelt homes may be possible and desirable, McDonald concluded. "We have cheaper rates, but we use a lot of water . . . that is the reason for large water bills."

Community Church

Sunday, November 27: Morning Worship at 9 and 11, with Roy McCorkel speaking at both services. Church School as follows: 9 and 11, Nursery, Kindergarten, and Primary; 10, Junior, Junior High, College Age, Adults. Youth fellowships as follows: 6-8 p.m., Junior High, Fellowship Center; 7-8:30 p.m., Senior High, social hall. 3-5:30 p.m., Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship officers and leaders meeting at Plymouth Church, Washington.

Lions Cop Title

by Chester M. Speziale

The Touch Football League has ended with the Greenbelt Lions Club winning for the second time.

We are now forming a Men's Volleyball League. All organizations, clubs, churches, etc., who wish to join are urged to contact Chester M. Speziale at GR 3-2363, No. 1 Forestway. Please get in touch with me before December 1. Game time, Thursday night, 8 to 10 p.m., Center school.

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